India "Museums" is a State subject and therefore, State Governments are mainly concerned with the matters relating to museums. However, a Central Advisory Board of Museums has been constituted by Department of Culture, Government of India to strengthen preservation and conservation of cultural heritage of the country. The Board has advised museums in the country to step up documentation of their art treasures and publication programmes which would be useful to the research scholars and the general public.

Books in NCERT Godowns

1026. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books worth some lakhs of rupees are lying unused and got rusted in the godowns of NCERT;

(b) if so, whether any investigations have been made into the causes of this state of affairs; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to put the books to proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A Committee of the Officers, set up by NCERT had reviewed the position of all textbooks lying unsold in the Council. It had identified 174 titles of old textbooks which could not be used further by the schools due to:—

(i) De-prescription by the educational authorities;

(ii) Introduction of new educational pattern;

(iii) Revision of old textbooks.

(c) Steps are being taken by NCERT for the disposal of these books as waste paper.

Dindigul-Madurai-Tuticorin Broad Gauge Line

1027. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Karur-Dindigul broad gauge line would be ready;

(b) by when Railway would undertake Dindigul-Madurai-Tuticorin broad gauge line;

(c) what would be the cost of Dindigul-Madurai-Tuticorin broad gauge line; and

(d) whether any funds have been sanctioned for the purpose, if so, what are the details thereof and the amount spent so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) This new line will be opened to traffic in August, 1988.

(b) Work has been taken up for parallel BG line between Dindigul and Madurai. Parallel BG line between Talayithu, Maniyachi and Millavittan has been completed.

(c) and (d) Cost of Dindigul-Madurai parallel BG line, Madurai-Maniyachi conversion and Millavittan-Tuticorin parallel BG line is about Rs. 95 crore. Expenditure incurred upto March, 1988 on Dindigul-Madurai parallel BG line is Rs. 6.93 crore. Expenditure in 1988-89 will be incurred from the total allotment of Rs. 5.01 crore for the entire project.

Cancellation of Direct Flight between Madras and Jeddah for Haj Pilgrims

1028. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to cancel direct flight from Madras to Jeddah for Haj Pilgrimage;